

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 01491 131003Z

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJ: DENT VISIT

THE NEWLY-FORMED AMERICAN-ROMANIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION HELD ITS FIRST SESSION FRIDAY IN BUCHAREST WITH U.S. SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FREDERICK B. DENT AND ROMANIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE ION PATAN VOICING OPTIMISM OVER FUTURE TRADE RELATIONS.

SECRETARY DENT AND MINISTER PATAN AGREED THAT THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION WILL FURTHER TRADE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ROMANIA. MINISTER PATAN SAID AT THE OPENING SESSION FRIDAY BEFORE WORKING GROUPS OF EXPERTS BEGAN THEIR TALKS THAT HE SEES ROMANIAN-AMERICAN TRADE REACHING ONE THOUSAND MILLION DOLLARS BY 1980---FOUR TIMES WHAT IT IS NOW.

SECRETARY DENT SAID THE UNITED STATES HAS TRIED TO GIVE ROMANIA WHAT HE CALLED "SPECIAL CONSIDERATION" IN ECONOMIC RELATIONS, AND UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 BUCAR 01491 131003Z

"SPECIAL TREATMENT" AS FAR AS CREDITS FROM THE U.S. EXPORT-IMPORT

BANK.

SECRETARY DENT WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE CLEAR THAT QUOTE WE ATTACH THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO THE EXTENSION OF MOST-FAVORED-NATION STATUS ROMANIA END QUOTE.

THREE WORKING GROUPS CONTINUED TALKS THROUGH FRIDAY ON INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION AND JOINT INVESTMENT, BUSINESS FACILITIES, AND GENERAL TRADE ISSUES. ONE OF THE AMERICAN SPECIALISTS SAID THE ROMANIANS HAVE ASSURED THEM THAT THEY WILL COOPERATE IN HELPING U.S. FIRMS ESTABLISH OFFICES IN ROMANIA. THERE ARE NOW 16 AMERICAN CORPORATIONS OR SUBSIDIARIES REGISTERED TO DO BUSINESS IN ROMANIA.

SECRETARY DENT HAD PRIVATE TALKS WITH PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUSESCU LATE FRIDAY, FOLLOWED BY A DINNER WHICH SECRETARY DENT AND AMBASSADOR HARRY G. BARNES, JR. CO-HOSTED AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE.

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES INCLUDE A FINAL PLENARY SESSION OF THE JOINT COMMISSION, THE ISSUING OF A PROTOCOL AND JOINT COMMUNIQUE, A NEWS CONFERENCE BY SECRETARY DENT, AND A TRIP TO NORTHERN ROMANIA FOR THE SECRETARY AND HIS PARTY TO SPEND EASTER AT A ROMANIAN ORTHODOX MONASTERY.

ON MONDAY, SECRETARY DENT RETURNS TO SOFIA FOR TALKS WITH BULGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER TODOR ZHIVKOV, AND TO SIGN A CONSULAR CONVENTION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND BULGARIA. BARNES

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